



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

## ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 03-054  
Prompted By: Consumer Complaints  
Date Opened: 12/01/2003  
Principal Investigator: Nate Seymour  
Subject: Fuel Line Leakage

Manufacturer: Bayerische Motoren Werke  
Products: 2002 and 2003 BMW Motorcycles, R & K Series  
Population: 5000

Problem Description: The complaints allege that fuel leaked from a fuel line crimp connection and/or quick-disconnect coupler. The alleged leak is in close proximity to hot parts, such as the catalytic converter, and poses a fire threat.

### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	6	0	6
Crashes/Fires:	1	0	1
Injury Incidents:	1	0	1
# Injuries:	1	0	1
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	6	0	6

\*Description Of Other: At least six internet postings at [www.r1150.net](http://www.r1150.net).

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Nate Seymour *NS*  
Div. Chief: Richard Boyd  
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: BMW issued a technical service bulletin titled "connection of quick-action coupling on fuel supply line: k and r series models" in July of 2002. This TSB stated that the o-ring could be damaged when closing the coupling, resulting in a fuel leak.

Owners have continued to have fuel leak problems since the TSB was issued. Complainants allege that the crimp-type hose clamp is not providing an adequate clamping force resulting in the fuel leakage. Leaks are typically evident on cold start up. Allegedly when the engine reaches operating temperature, the leak stops. ODI has received one allegation of an owner being severely burned when the motorcycle caught fire.

ODI has opened a preliminary evaluation to investigate the nature of the alleged leaks and determine an appropriate course of action.

*MS*  
12/02/03